Title : Problems being faced by sugarcane growers in Karnataka.

*m01

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMARAJANAGARA): Mr Chairman Sir, I am sorry to say that the method adopted by Government of India to fix the sugarcane price is disappointing. It is unscientific because they do not take into consideration the various expenditures like electricity, water, labour, fertilizer, etc. Some officials who do not have experience and knowledge in the field of agriculture and food are asked to fix the sugarcane price. The Government of India should do away with this outdated method otherwise the sugarcane growers cannot survive.

The statutory minimum price (SMP) should be decided on actual facts scientifically. All expenditures including labour charges should be taken into consideration.

The total number of Government employees is only 4%. They get dearness allowance of 4% twice a year. Unfortunately, the farmers who are 69% of the country's population have been neglected for the last several decades. If the

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* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

situation continues like this, the sugarcane growers will also commit suicide like other farmers. Last year 2004-05 the productivity rate was 8% and the rate of sugarcane rose from 73 rupees to 74.50. The increase is very meagre and this has been done by the sugar mill owners in connivance with the officials. The officials who have fixed the sugarcane price have not followed any principle. This kind of injustice to the sugarcane growers should be stopped forthwith. It is high time that the Government of India should come to the rescue of the sugarcane growers.

The total expenditure of sugarcane growers per acre is Rs 38,000/-. This includes labour charges, water and electricity charges, insecticides charges, seed and fertilizer charges, etc. The farmer can produce 45 tonnes of sugarcane per acre on an average. The SMP fixed by the Government last year was Rs 750 per tonne. This step was improper and without any kind of justification. If the productivity is 8% the SMP of sugarcane per tonne should be at least Rs 1000 per tonne. Every year the SMP should be raised scientifically by competent authorities. Farmers and agricultural scientists should be involved in the process of price fixation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr Shivanna, please conclude. Your time is over.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, I will take three more minutes. This is a very important issue.

*m02

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (KANAKAPURA) : Sir, I associate with the hon. Member to express my concern about the pathetic situation of sugarcane growers in the country. They should get justice.

*m03

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: This demand of scientifically fixing the SMP is there is in Karnataka for the last 10 years. Unfortunately, the Centre has not taken up the matter seriously. A nominal increase like .75% or 1% each year has no basis and is unscientific I therefore request the Centre to open their eyes and see the realities. The increase of SMP each year should be at least 4 to 5%. I hope and trust that from this year onwards the SMP for sugarcane should be more than 1000 rupees and every year it should increase according to the increase in the expenditure of growers which will be about 4 to 5%. This is the long pending demand of sugarcane growers of Karnataka.

I thank you Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

*m04

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : Sir, this problem relates to farmers. This is about the prices for sugarcane growers. Sir, we would like to associate. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

...(*Interruptions*)

*m05

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): Sir, I want to associate with this.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : Sir, I also associate with this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are both of you associating?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. You have associated but this is without any notice. It is not a proper thing. I am doing it as a special case. But you ought to have given notice earlier, which you have not done.